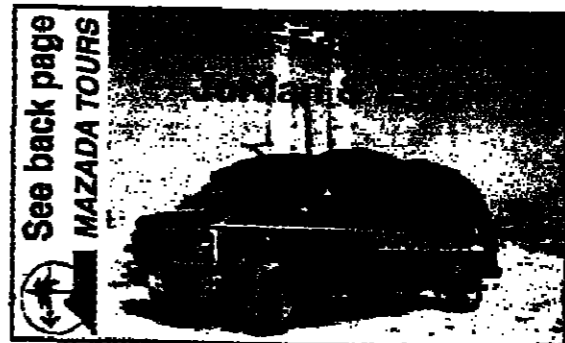


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Border policeman Tzahi Shmaya sits with his head in his hands next to his lawyer while his father (l) tries to comfort him at Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, where he was remanded yesterday for beating Palestinian workers. Stories, Page 2 (AP)

Sharon: Security cabinet 'in the dark' about Hebron

NATIONAL Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon last night charged that neither he nor any other member of the internal security cabinet has any notion of what is in the emerging agreement on Hebron.

"We are totally in the dark," he told members of the National Religious Party's political bureau.

Sharon broke his silence over the Hebron negotiations and joined the ranks of ministers complaining about their exclusion from negotiations. Minister Ze'ev Binyamin Begin (Likud), Minister Yuli Edelstein (Yisrael Ba'aliya) and the two NRP ministers,

SARAH HONIG

Zevulun Hammer and Yitzhak Levy, also have complained about the secrecy surrounding the negotiations.

A number of other Likud ministers have expressed uneasiness over not being made privy to something for which they are expected to vote. This is also the case with the Shas ministers, though their objections have been more low key.

Sharon had let it be known privately that he is fuming over the agreement said to be in the works, and that he has taken umbrage at

not being consulted.

Yesterday, he told the NRP forum that "no one has bothered letting the ministers in on what is going on. No one has any idea about what the negotiators are coming up with. There have been no reports - not only not to the full cabinet, but not even to the inner cabinet. It is as if it is none of our business. No deliberation has ever taken place about Hebron in any ministerial framework."

Sharon complained that "despite all this, we are expected to approve some sort of a *fait accompli* that at some unspecified point

(Continued on Page 18)

Abed-Rabbo warns of violence if current Israeli policy continues

JON IMMANUEL

If Israeli government policy continues on its current track, it is heading toward "total confrontation," Palestinian Authority Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo warned yesterday.

"The only alternative that this government leaves for us is to confront this policy of confrontation with all the means that are possible and on all levels. They are not any more adopting a policy of creating normal relations between the Palestinian people and the Israeli people," he told a press conference at the Information Ministry in Ramallah.

Abed-Rabbo, one of the senior negotiators in the Hebron talks, hinted broadly that confrontation could include violence "on a wide scale." It was the clearest warning



since the three-day September riots of Palestinian frustration with the Israeli government.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat reiterated in a Gaza press conference with visiting European Parliament president Klaus Hänsch that there had been no progress on Hebron. But he also tried to sound conciliatory, saying there was no obstacle on his side to meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin

Netanyahu.

"I am ready to meet him at any time," said Arafat.

However, Abed-Rabbo, who was clearly representing official PA policy in his planned address, said that a meeting between Netanyahu and Arafat at this time might only make matters worse if it resulted in deadlock.

"It will help in one thing - the deterioration in relations between the two sides." But it was in the context of expanding Israeli settlements, not Hebron deadlock, that Abed-Rabbo warned of total confrontation.

He said the government had taken a policy "to encourage and protect settlers in confiscating and stealing Palestinian land... This government is taking daily steps and decisions of confrontation

(Continued on Page 18)

IDF: Budget cut won't reduce military strength

DAVID HARRIS

THERE will be no reduction in the armed forces' fighting capability next year, despite the cuts agreed to by the military and the government, senior IDF officers said yesterday.

The 1997 budget already has been decided and will contain an NIS 825 million cut, the officers said during a briefing for journalists in Tel Aviv.

While not going into details of the ongoing negotiations with the Finance Ministry, the officers said relations with the Treasury are now very good.

"We will not get involved in arguments with the Finance Ministry," said one officer. "The only issue on the table is Israel's security needs, and that means the size of the army and the extent of its activities."

The introduction of a multi-year budget to the Knesset alongside the 1997 proposals is impossible for the IDF.

"There are always changes from year to year, even if they aren't necessarily huge," one officer pointed out.

(Continued on Page 18)

Syria would accept US-led summit, Specter says

BATSHEVA TSUR and DOUGLAS DAVIS

ISRAEL would welcome a US-brokered summit between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Syrian President Hafez Assad, government sources in Jerusalem said yesterday evening.

The Syrians have not yet given a positive response to this proposal, the sources added.

Nevertheless, US Senator Arlen Specter, who broached the idea of a summit in his Wednesday talks with Assad in Damascus, said later: "My assessment is that there is a high probability that, if President Clinton issues such an invitation, it will be accepted."

"My sense is that the next step is up to the US," Specter said, before leaving Israel yesterday after shuttling between Jerusalem and Damascus. "I believe President Clinton should invite both Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Assad to the Oval Office to renew the peace process."

Syria is currently open to international diplomatic intervention.

(Continued on Page 18)

Transportation Minister relearns the rules of the road

IT'S never too late to learn the rules of the road, even for Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy.

"It was interesting," said Levy, who spent yesterday at a "correct driving" course at the National Transportation Institute in Jaffa.

Levy, however, was not on ministerial business.

After racking up eight points on his license for two speeding violations, Levy was ordered to take the course. Before beginning his lesson, Levy said he also would learn for the sake of the general public.

Levy said the course has "great potential" for refreshing drivers. "We have to think how to exploit [the course], and perhaps to extend the number of students," he said.

He opted to complete the course in two six-hour sessions. Other participants in the course said Levy sat quietly during the lesson and listened intently to the instructor. (Tim)

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Netanyahu calls for consensus, but not national unity gov't

Peres backs compromise on Labor primaries

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday put the lid on speculation about a national unity coalition for the time being, while still calling for a broad consensus on what will come after a deal is struck on Hebron.

Speaking at the Likud political bureau meeting, he implored his party's members to support him on the Hebron redeployment. He encountered caustic opposition from Science Minister Ze'ev Binyamin Begin.

Netanyahu stressed that when he speaks of a broad consensus, he does not mean a national unity government.

"I do not hold that in order to achieve a national consensus we need a national unity government," Netanyahu said. "For such a government, we need joint policy guidelines. This would depend on the good will of the opposition. But even without a broad coalition there should be agreement and discussion of our ultimate national goals as we enter what could well be the most critical ever negotiations in the state's history."

If there is any "vital lesson that the experience of the previous years has taught us, it is that such paramouly important decisions to our existence and future should not

be imposed with a one vote margin. After the Hebron agreement, we will deal with the issue of a permanent agreement, and here it is important to create a consensus between most segments of the nation, although there will always be extremists on either fringe. But I believe that a consensus is possible and we will make a supreme effort to achieve it.

"If we could unify most of the nation behind goals for the coming talks on a permanent agreement, this will send a very clear message to the other side," Netanyahu said.

On Hebron, Netanyahu told bureau members that "if the security of the Jewish community is assured, there will be an agreement. At the moment there are gaps and attempts to bridge over them. If it were all so simple, they (the PA) would have already closed the deal." Netanyahu said, alluding to claims the agreement he is hatching will be no different from the one drawn up by the Labor government.

"The comments made and written are groundless and without any connection to what we are doing in order to

continue the Jewish presence in Hebron," Netanyahu maintained.

"We are not in the process of getting up and getting out of Hebron. For us, Hebron is not a foreign, distant place. Hebron is a cornerstone of our national existence, for which we are struggling."

For that struggle, Netanyahu said, he needs "the help of Hebron's Jews - we are not on opposing sides - and the help of the opposition, which should evince responsibility, and the help of the entire nation."

Netanyahu said he had no choice but to carry out the Hebron redeployment "because a government must abide by the agreements of a former government. Not to do so is to invite chaos. If we don't keep agreements, future governments will renege on whatever we contracted and everything would come apart."

This drew Begin to ask "what will come after we loosen this cork called Hebron? Then I presume the way will be paved for negotiations over Jerusalem. Can we fathom our government negotiating the fate of Jerusalem and making deals about who would have sovereignty there?"

LABOR Party leader Shimon Peres has adopted the compromise proposed by MK Ephraim Sneh, to hold the party convention next April and the leadership primaries three months later.

Sneh, who is a candidate for party leadership, said he would meet MK Ehud Barak to try to persuade him to agree to this compromise.

The compromise, which is also acceptable to MKs Uzi Baram and Haim Ramon, is intended to avoid a confrontation between the Peres and Barak camps at next Thursday's central committee meeting over the schedule of the convention and primaries.

Barak, at present the favorite candidate for party leadership, is insisting that the convention and leadership showdown be held together. Peres's supporters, on the other hand, prefer to postpone the leadership showdown by two to three years.

As the central committee meeting approaches, the mutual attacks by the two rival camps are getting fiercer. Peres, Baram and others have recently called Barak "paranoid," "gunman" and "power drunk," accusing him of conducting an aggressive campaign to get Peres out of the way and take his place.

Barak, who addressed a meeting

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Two children killed by old Jordanian landmine near Jenin

JON IMMANUEL and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

TWO children died yesterday in an explosion caused by an old landmine in the village of Anzah, near Jenin.

Neither Jenin hospital staff nor city police could identify the dead children, saying the IDF closed the area.

The IDF said last night that, according to army sappers, the mines were brought to the site of the explosion near a cemetery and were not under the ground when they exploded. The mines were not used by the IDF, but had been in use by the Jordanian army before 1967.

There was speculation one of the dead might have been older, but local sources said they were aged 13 and 14. Another youth was injured in the explosion.

Like Kabatiya, 8 km. to the north, where a Hamas activist was killed by a bomb in his front garden Saturday, Anzah is in area B and under ultimate Israeli security control.

The Kabatiya activist's family claimed he had found the bomb while planting herbs, and was not making it himself. Police spokesman Boaz Goldberg said police have not yet finished their investigation into the Kabatiya explosion.

The IDF said an initial investigation found that the Anzah explosion caused extensive damage. IDF demolition experts and medical units rushed to the site of the explosion and the Israeli sector commander contacted his Palestinian counterpart, who met him on the scene.



National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, Public Works Authority director-general Ben Zion Salmon (left) and Beersheba Mayor Yitzhak Rager (right) prepare to cut the ribbon at the dedication of Highway 90 yesterday. (Yitzhak Elshar/Scoop 80)

For the latest in medical news, read Sunday's Health Page, by Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

- A Technion professor tells you everything you wanted to know about sleep but were too tired to ask.
- Soroka Hospital removes breast tumors in a procedure no more scary than a visit to the dentist.
- An Israeli researcher hopes people will have pig hearts.
- An expert explains who needs glucometers.

Soldiers shoot Palestinian at Ramallah roadblock

IDF soldiers shot and wounded a Palestinian who fled on foot from a roadblock during a routine security check yesterday, the army said.

The man was stopped by soldiers at a roadblock outside Ramallah.

When they demanded to see his permit to enter Israel, he jumped out of the car and fled on foot.

Soldiers ordered him to stop and, when he did not, shot him in the back of the leg above the knee.

The man - who was not identified - was in good condition yesterday afternoon at Hadassah Hospital. (AP)

Tibi screens video of more police violence

JON IMMANUEL

DR. Ahmed Tibi, an Israeli-Arab adviser to Arafat and a human-rights activist, screened a videotape yesterday of border police slapping and taunting an arrested group of illegal Palestinian workers.

At a news conference in Ramallah with Palestinian Authority Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo, Tibi said that the PA has decided to distribute video cameras for use at locations where clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinians are most frequent.

"In one [recent] case an Israeli officer, while humiliating and hitting three Palestinian laborers, conference, to the rapt attention of a Palestinian audience.

It showed the police standing around bored most of the time, indicating that the violence they used was just a means of changing the routine.

Most of all, it showed how both sides seemed to accept the treatment as normal.

After one clip, in which a policeman gives an audible slap to a man who appears to be asking him to treat the prisoners more civilly, that same man is seen talking in a casual way with the policeman who hit him, as though nothing had happened.

Border policemen remanded for beating Arab workers

BILL HUTMAN

THE two border policemen seen on film beating Palestinian workers were remanded yesterday for three days by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.

A representative of the Justice Ministry's Police Investigations Division asked for a six-day remand, on grounds additional border policemen may have been involved in the incident, and the suspects' release would hurt chances of locating them.

The division has only obtained a 25-minute segment of the 45 minutes apparently filmed at the A-Ram junction some five weeks ago.

Other policemen may have been photographed in the segment still missing, the representative told the court.

The film footage, taken by an amateur Palestinian photographer, showed border policemen David Ben-Abu and Tzahi Shumaya kicking and hitting several Palestinian workers. It was aired on Channel 1 television earlier this week, prompting the arrest of the two.

The Police Investigations Division has already made clear that it plans to ask for criminal charges to be filed against them, in addition to whatever disciplinary action is taken, and this was reiterated during the remand hearing.

Shumaya, 19, of Or Yehuda, is cooperating with investigators, but Ben-Abu, 20, of Nahariya, is reportedly not. His lawyer said his refusal to cooperate is connected to the tough conditions he served under in the territories, including during the massive September unrest.

Family members of the suspects charged the media with "blowing the incident out of proportion." Said one relative, "What happened. They didn't kill anyone... Why do keep showing the scene over and over again on television?"

Two of the Palestinians that were seen being beaten by the border policemen have been located. Investigators are trying to locate at least another four Palestinians who are seen being hit, the department representative told the court.

Bail was set at NIS 3,000 for each suspect. On Sunday, they will be released on bail and confined to their homes with their phone lines cut off, the court ruled.

Personal message to S.B.

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A Bereaved Mother's Plea: Don't make Hebron another refuge for KILLERS!

PLEASE know that the issue of "IDF Freedom of Action" in all parts of Hebron, which is delaying the signing of the accord between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, has little to do with the four hundred Israeli citizens who live in the center of Hebron.

FROM my own tragic experience, the matter of "IDF Freedom of Action" concerns all potential murderers who are not being pursued by the IDF, and who have been afforded "havens of hospitality" by the Palestinian Authority.

MY sixteen year old son, David, was murdered by Palestinian terrorists on his way home from school on May 13, 1996. The IDF could not extricate the killers, who escaped into the cities under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority.

EVEN though Israeli and American intelligence officials have given me the name and whereabouts of at least one of my son's killers, the Palestinian Authority refuses to punish him or to hand him over to the Israeli Authorities, as required by the Oslo Accords.

WHAT makes matters worse is that Arafat's press spokesman himself announced on October 8, 1996 that none of the nineteen murderers of Israelis who have taken refuge in the PA areas will ever be handed over for trial, Oslo Accords notwithstanding.

THE question remains: Under such circumstances, will Hebron become another haven of refuge to which killers of Jews, from all over the country, may escape?

THE issue of "IDF Freedom of Action" is not in any way of merely hypothetical concern, nor is it confined exclusively to the fate of four hundred Jews in Hebron.

PLEASE understand that what happened to our family could happen to any Israeli family, wherever they may live. The IDF must be allowed the prerogative of "Freedom of Action" against terrorists who escape to a new "city of refuge" for killers in Hebron.

FAX Prime Minister Netanyahu today!
Demand that he remain resolute on this issue of "IDF Freedom of Action" in Hebron.
His fax number is: 02-566-4838.

Joyce Boim
19 Rehov Brand, Jerusalem, Israel

Winning cards and numbers

The winning cards in yesterday's Chance draw were the king of spades, queen of hearts, 10 of diamonds and eight of clubs.

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 593435 was good for NIS 1 million, while the holder of ticket number 621864 won a car.

Tickets numbered 692928, 555932, 546011, 634476, 701872, 294819, 486153 and 060292 all were good for NIS 5,000.

Those holding tickets ending in 33149, 93385, 66370, 19707, 21054, 57168, 13093, 44361, 56409, 25350, 27793, 00043, 77731, 31262, 51747, 87810, 31937, 82712 and 34157 all won NIS 1,000.

Those holding tickets ending in 161, 051, 450 and 254 all won NIS 100; in 12, 64, 75 and 58 NIS 30; in 23 and 93, NIS 20; and in 0 and 9, NIS 10.

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Amitai - Citizens for Good Government demands Olmert be suspended

EVELYN GORDON

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert should be suspended from his job as mayor until his trial is over, Amitai - Citizens for Good Government demanded in a petition to the High Court of Justice yesterday.

In other news, the state yesterday appealed to the Supreme Court against the leniency of the sentence given to Mordechai Yahal, who is one of the men convicted of the same crimes for which Olmert is soon to be tried. Olmert has been charged with aggravated fraud, falsifying corporate documents, tax code violations and violating the Party Funding Law, for a fund-raising scam run by the Likud in 1988, when he was party treasurer.

Amitai's petition argued that Olmert's continued tenure as mayor while under indictment for such serious charges severely undermines the public's faith in government and the rule of law.

The petition noted that by law, a city council may remove a mayor for "behavior unbecoming his position," with the interior minister's approval. The serious charges against Olmert fit the bill, the petition argued, and in light of them, the council's failure to remove or

suspend him is so unreasonable as to be illegal.

The petition cited the precedent of Shas MKs Aryeh Deri and Raphael Pinhasi, whom the High Court ordered prime minister



Ehud Olmert

Yitzhak Rabin to fire as a minister and deputy minister in 1993.

Olmert is an elected official, while ministers and deputy ministers are appointed, but this is not a reason for treating him differently, the petition argued. The voters had no way of knowing there would be an indictment against him when they elected him, and now they cannot get rid of him even if the indictment

would make them feel differently.

Finally, the petition said, it is unfair that such a senior official should be allowed to continue serving despite the charges against him, when the same charges would mandate the suspension of even the most junior municipal employees under civil service regulations.

The crimes' severity was also the main reason for the state's appeal of Yahal's sentence. Yahal, whom the appeal dubbed "the central figure and guiding spirit" of the scam, was sentenced to six months' community service and a NIS 75,000 fine. The main reason for the light sentence was the fact that eight years have passed since the crime was committed, and five since he was indicted.

The scam worked by giving businesses fictitious receipts in exchange for donations to the Likud. This enabled the party to get contributions from businesses, which are illegal, and also allowed the companies to take tax deductions as if the donations were legitimate business expenses. The NIS 1 million raised in this fashion was then omitted from the party's report to the state comptroller, enabling the party to get a clean bill of health for its finances and NIS 2m. in campaign funding from the government.

IDF order bars Jews from most of Hebron

HERB KEINON

SETTLEMENT-activists in Hebron revealed yesterday that an IDF order preventing the entrance of Jews into the vast majority of Hebron, including some areas slated to come under Israeli control in the redeployment agreement, has been in effect since October 24.

The order, barring Israelis from the city's Arab neighborhoods and some Jewish religious and historical sites, such as the tomb of Oniel Ben-Kenaz, was issued for security reasons, an IDF spokesman said. The case is one of the areas to come under Israeli control which Israelis are barred from entering.

The order comes as area settlement leaders are expressing increasing concern that even without an official signing of a redeployment

agreement, the army is slowly redeploying, and placing most of the city off-limits to Jews.

Hebron settlement leader Noam Arnon said the order effectively places 98 percent of Hebron off-limits to Israelis.

"We are only allowed a small area," he said. "It is like a ghetto. It is inconceivable to strangle the Jewish settlement at a time when every other resident in the world, and people of all other religions, can go wherever they want. It is an intolerable form of discrimination."

The leaders of the settlement said they did not publicize the order earlier because they had a meeting at the beginning of the week with

OC Judea and Samaria Mag.-Gen. Gabi Ophir and had hoped he would rescind the order.

Arnon said that Ophir promised to look into the matter, but so far has not given the settlement an answer.

The IDF spokesman said that Israelis wishing to visit the areas covered by the order need to coordinate their visits with the IDF commanding officer in the area, who will grant special permits on an ad hoc basis depending on security considerations.

The spokesman said that this type of order has been put into effect in Hebron on a number of occasions in the past, but has only now been formalized.

The media and security forces are allowed to enter all areas covered by the order.

Police shoot, apprehend suspected diamond robber

RAINE MARCUS

POLICE yesterday shot and wounded a known criminal, who is believed to have committed a series of robberies of diamond merchants and dealers in the Tel Aviv area.

The man, Haim Hajaj, known as "Bazbaz," allegedly tried to run over detectives attempting to arrest him in the Holon industrial zone yesterday, after he and three other suspects allegedly robbed a diamond dealer in Petah Tikva.

The diamond dealer, the owner of a diamond-polishing workshop in Ramat Gan, was delivering jewelry to a store on Petah Tikva's Mivtza Kadesh St., when he was attacked and

robbed by four men, who stole bags containing tens of thousands of dollars worth of gold and diamonds, as well as cash.

During the robbery, Hajaj and his alleged accomplices were under surveillance by detectives. The detectives followed the four to Holon, where they tried to arrest them. But the four, led by Hajaj, allegedly tried to run them down and flee in their vehicles.

Hajaj was shot and wounded by police and taken to Wolfson Hospital. The other three men managed to flee but were later caught after a

chase by police, who also recovered the swag.

Hajaj was arrested and imprisoned several years ago for similar offenses, after detectives bugged his car and heard his conversations relating to the planning and carrying out of burglaries.

Police have so far not found a weapon, but detective squad chief Asst.-Cmdr. Mordechai Lieber said the gang is known for armed robberies.

The four have a remand hearing this morning - Hajaj from his hospital bed. Meanwhile, as in all cases concerning shooting at suspects by police, the Justice Ministry's police investigation division will check if the shooting was justified.

Rights group fights Labor Ministry over homes for disabled children

EVELYN GORDON

A human-rights group went to the High Court of Justice to fight a Labor Ministry decision it says denies adequate funding to homes for disabled children.

The petition, filed by Bizchut, the Israel Human-Rights Center for People with Disabilities, is on behalf of 10 families with physically and mentally disabled children. The families wanted to set up two group-homes with five children each, in apartments furnished by the city of Jerusalem.

The Labor Ministry refused to approve the project. It insisted that each home contain not less than 10 children, and it was willing to pay only NIS 4,300 per month for each child, instead of the NIS 6,710 the city said was necessary for the project.

The ministry said the 10-person minimum is necessary for both financial reasons and the children's welfare. People with such severe disabilities need round-the-clock access to medical and paramedical personnel, which it is not practical to provide for groups of fewer than 10, it said. Furthermore, it argued, since such people have limited inner resources, it is necessary for them to be in a large group which can provide external stimulation, and

for which it is financially feasible to organize a variety of activities.

In response, Bizchut said the ministry's opinion that large groups were better for the children contradicted the latest professional research, which shows that severely disabled children do much better in small homes than in "mini-institutions." The organization submitted affidavits to this effect from American experts, including some of those on whose research the ministry's conclusions were supposedly based. All stated categorically that the research cited did not support the ministry's conclusion, and that the authors would in fact be "horrified" to find themselves associated with such a conclusion.

Regarding the funding, Bizchut first noted that under previous High Court decisions, financial considerations do not justify discrimination - in this case, depriving the severely disabled of the same right to a home-like atmosphere as other people have. Furthermore, it said, the ministry gives those with both physical and mental handicaps about half of what it gives people with physical handicaps only, which constitutes illegal discrimination as well.



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- The Council for the Sheltered Child, in aid of children in boarding schools
- Elem - Association for Youth at Risk
- ELI - Association for Child Protection
- Eran - Israel Association for Emotional First Aid by Phone
- Nitzan - Association for the Advancement of Children and Youth with Learning and Functional Disabilities
- The Scout Movement - "Garin Reim"
- Yated - Children with Down's Syndrome
- Yedidim - Organization for Youth and Society
- Yehuda Ya'aleh, in aid of needy children

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The taxing problem

IN the United States, George Bush abandoned his "read my lips: no new taxes" pledge and found himself booted out of office in the 1992 elections.

Perhaps Israeli voters will spare Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu the same punishment if he breaks the same pledge, made only a short while ago. What may not be spared is the prime minister's own dream of leaving a legacy of a transformed Israeli economy ready for the 21st century.

Netanyahu, in his victory speech and again before the US Congress, articulated a vision for the Israeli economy. But like George Bush, who was ultimately stymied by "the vision thing," the prime minister set aside the lofty vision, only to get bogged down in the muck of budget cutting.

Since the Knesset Finance Committee this week rejected the government's planned cuts in child allowances, a major component of the government's NIS 4.9 billion cut for the 1997 budget, the announcement of a further NIS 7b. cut is being met with considerable skepticism. The hints at new taxes add to the doubt because they seem to concede the government will fail to obtain its proposed cuts even before the fight has really begun.

In a joint press conference with Finance Minister Dan Meridor on Wednesday, Netanyahu said that the government would "do everything in its power not to increase the tax burden." In fact, the roughly NIS 7b. in cuts by the government include about NIS 1b. in tax hikes. The lower national insurance rate that employers pay on low-salary employees would be canceled, and user fees on certain services would be raised.

But Netanyahu was not even counting these levies in his allusion to what politicians like to call "revenue enhancement measures." Further tax increases now contemplated in the financial bureaucracy include returning the corporate income tax rate to 40 percent (the previous government reduced it to 36 percent), and increasing Value Added Tax from 17 to 19 percent.

The problem with tax increases is not just the immediate dampening effect they would have on the economy, already headed toward recession. The problem is that while budget cuts are often ephemeral, tax hikes can result in a long-term increase in the size of government.

The strategic goal must be to reduce the size of government. It is a mistake, even as a short-term fix during a budget crisis, to take any step that will move away from this critical goal. The budget package should be tailored not just toward the current crisis, but toward the long term.

The talk of new taxes is symptomatic of the lack of strategic thinking evident in the budget package as a whole. The budget cuts are a necessary trim while what the budget needs is a whole new haircut.

Meridor and Netanyahu are right: If the budget is not cut, the economy as a whole and the weaker sectors in particular will pay a terrible price in inflation and unemployment. But cuts that do not reflect a vision of how the government's overall role in the economy will change are band-aids, rather than the surgery that the government rightly claims is needed.

The prime minister and his economic team need to start a real public debate on the role of government in society. Should the government own and run the health-care system, be a mortgage banker, subsidize industries and food prices, and bankroll municipalities? Government may have some proper role in all of these areas, but today's situation is clearly lopsided toward government involvement.

Perhaps Netanyahu believes that it is easier to make cuts here and there, rather than push for a systematic change in the government's role. But then, why should any minister support a cut in their ministry that is not part of a comprehensive plan, with benefits that people can understand?

Here Netanyahu and Meridor might take a cue from Steve Goldsmith, the mayor of Indianapolis who just visited Israel. Goldsmith managed to save his city millions of dollars, improve services, increase employment—all without firing a single union member. He did it by competing out many city services, and letting the government unions bid on service contracts along with private companies. He then earmarked all the savings for a "Building Fund," which paid for infrastructure improvements that have helped create an economic boom in the city.

The Middle East is very different than the Midwest, but some lessons do apply. Indianapolis' experience shows that limiting the government's role is not just a matter of staying off financial collapse; it can pay for things that people really care about. People are not interested in economic reform per se. But they do care about better roads, better schools, more money for development towns, and so on. If people (ministers are people, too) understand how they will benefit from concrete savings, earmarked for popular projects, they might support the necessary cuts. On the other hand, budget cuts divorced from economic restructuring focus attention on the pain without promising any compelling gain.

Israel's government, taking all levels combined, spends a whopping 55 percent of the nation's economic product. Like Kennedy's promise to put a man on the moon, Netanyahu should pledge to bring government spending to 40 percent of GDP by the end of the decade. But the goal must not just be to cut, but to save and to shift. There is no reason why Israelis cannot enjoy more and better services from a smaller government that taxes them less.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE DEATH PENALTY Sir, - Now that the assassin of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin has been sentenced to life imprisonment, there are reasons enough to consider imposition of the death penalty for such special cases of attacks against any leader of the State of Israel.

BRILLIANT RESPONSE Sir, - Many thanks to Bill Oakfield ("Witewash attempt") and Mike Ayl ("The Palestinian Covenant") in Letters of November 7 for their brilliant response to Yossi Beilin and others like him who are willing to appease Arafat no matter what. My hope is that others will also respond without let-up and attack the false peace process. Let us speak the truth and in time unite to face the dangers that threaten our country.

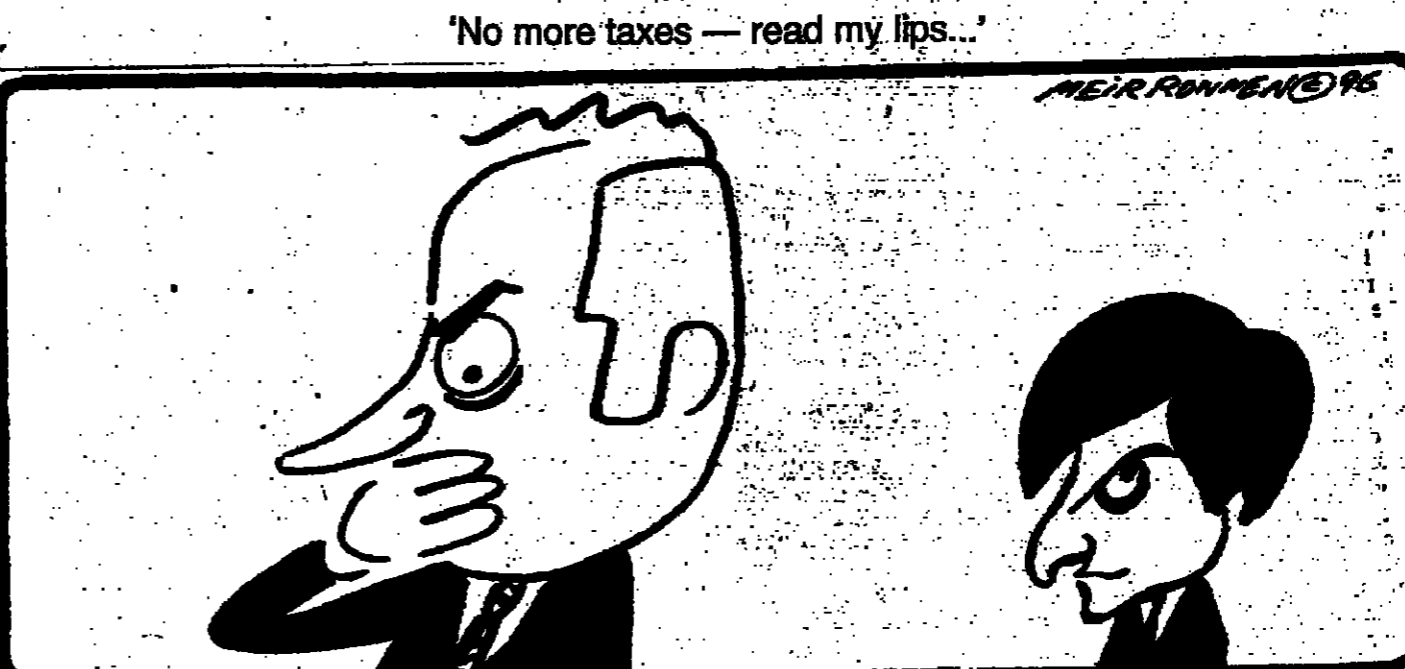
APPEASEMENT Sir, - Winston Churchill once said: "An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile hoping it will eat him last." Let us all hope that our prime minister will not be an appeaser.

COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE Sir, - I refer to Wendy Elliman's article of November 15 about complementary medicine. A characteristic of high technology in the late 20th century is the loss of control felt by the common citizen, who does not understand it and feels alienated. This explains in large degree the incredible phenomenon of the rush to non-medical therapy when modern scientific medicine has made remarkable advances in all fields and continues to do so. No doubt the impersonal and, at times inhuman, medical system (see Sam Orbaum) is in no small measure to blame. Nevertheless, pandering to superstition, rumor, ignorance, prejudice and other emotional extremes is no way to develop medicine. It should be clearly stated and has been by

ZOA DINNER Sir - Having attended the Zionist Organization of America's annual dinner on October 20, at which Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Elisha Ben-Elissar, was the guest speaker, we were astonished to read Marilyn Henry's account of the dinner on October 22.

Ms. Henry wrote that the ambassador was given a hostile reception. Nothing could be further from the truth. Mr. Ben-Elissar was given a standing ovation when he was introduced to speak and at the conclusion of his remarks.

It can be shown that unequivocal and valid evidence exists from repeated, unbiased and objective observation that the method works, and does more good than harm. The main unifying characteristic of non-medicine of all varieties is an almost complete absence of experimental observation. It depends entirely on stories, untested and undocumented claims for its claims to wonder cures. This is not only farcical, it is also a fundamental disservice to the patients.



US-Israel: no U-turn ahead

MUAMMAR Gaddafi usually breathes fire and brimstone at the US and does his best to antagonize it. But this week he joined the Arab chorus sweetly serenading President Clinton.

In an interview with France's Le Figaro the Libyan leader described Bill Clinton as "a good man," adding that now "after his reelection and freed from the Zionist lobby he will show the world the real Clinton."

As usual Gaddafi was expressing, in unwashed form, other Arab leaders' sentiments. In line with these sentiments those leaders held up Palestinian and Syrian negotiations with Israel, believing that a second-term Clinton, independent of the Jewish vote, would change his policy toward us.

So what makes him believe Clinton is about to change his position? Like other Arab leaders he assumes that the US can be isolated on the international stage and forced to follow the line of the European Union, Russia or China on the Middle East, or on any other question.

MOSHE ZAK

Boutros-Ghali's term because it doubted his ability to get the UN out of its financial deficit and free it from its bureaucratic tentacles. And Clinton's runaway election victory hasn't changed his administration's position on that.

Clinton's principled stand on the Mideast will extend into his second term as president No one here brought up what Boutros-Ghali wrote in January 1974: "The scenario of peaceful Arab-Zionist coexistence does not mean that the Arabs accept the existence of a Zionist entity in the heart of the Arab homeland. We assume that the struggle for the extermination of Zionist survival (N.B. not Jewish survival) will take a different form."

Libya's Gaddafi echoed the same thought this week, when he graciously invited Jews to return to Libya. So much for the secretary-gen-

eral's historical attitude on preserving the status of a UN member state. But clearly this had nothing to do with the US's refusal to a second term for Boutros-Ghali. The fact that all the other Security Council members voted for him—Russia, China, the EU and the African countries—didn't panic the US. It remained in glory.

Clinton's reelection has not, in fact, changed his stand on any central political issue. His Mideast policy during his first term was not decided by the "Jewish vote," as some would like to say, but by American interests.

Clinton wasn't lying to his voters, Jewish or not, when he declared his firm friendship for Israel. And the president will keep his promise to preserve Israel's qualitative edge over its neighbors. True, he has officials who will try to twist Israel's arm to ease negotiations with the Palestinians and the Syrians, but if Israel

insists on its essential interests even in the face of diplomatic difficulties it will find no U-turn in Clinton's basic stand. In the final analysis the Arabs too will come to see continued US support for Israel as evidence of Clinton's trustworthiness; in the end it will help them understand that the US can be relied on.

American intervention, over Kuwait in 1991 was not an isolated incident. In spring 1961, David Ben-Gurion recounted in his diaries, he met president Kennedy in New York for a discussion of weighty issues like the Dimona nuclear plant and the Palestinian refugee problem. As they were leaving Kennedy put his arm around Ben-Gurion's shoulder and invited him into a private back room. There the president said that he owed his election to America's Jews and asked what he could do for Israel. Replied Ben-Gurion: "Do whatever is good for the free world." The Israeli leader had no doubt that that would be good for Israel too. Like his successors Ben-Gurion had many differences with the US; but these did not prevent a strong and lasting network of trust and ties being forged between the two countries. It was this network that held "oil power" and several threats of war at bay.

Enter the 'politics of utility'

THE first election promise Binyamin Netanyahu broke was on the issue of a national unity government.

In the pre-election televised debate with Shimon Peres, Netanyahu declared that if elected he would turn to the Labor Party to form a national unity government. No such overture was ever made.

This episode set the stage for much that was to come. It made clear that considerations of utility rather than of policy determined the new prime minister's public—and even private—commitments.

Today even the purported decision to implement the Oslo accords is justified in Likud circles as an electoral necessity—without Netanyahu's promise to fulfill Israel's commitments to the Palestinians, he would not have become prime minister. Now Netanyahu has returned to the idea of a national unity government. His broken promises to his coalition partners and to power brokers in his own party have made the notion expedient, perhaps even essential.

NETANYAHU needs Labor in the government not because of the peace process, but because of the budget. Here the fissures in his own camp are probably beyond repair. The prime minister has to contend, first of all, with the rank and file in his own party, for whom social issues come first. After that come the payoffs to the religious camp. Cash demands of the clerical parties, of course, exceed budgetary restrictions. But, even

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

Netanyahu and Peres vociferously declaring their faith and confidence in each other. The unity initiative is apparently still very much alive. Netanyahu needs it, and not because of Hebron or the continuation of the peace process. While Ehud Barak suggested exploiting a coalition split on a Hebron agreement to bring down

Netanyahu has no safety net, political or legal. Labor opposition to the budget is guaranteed, and the law makes new elections mandatory if the government can't pass the budget within 90 days after the commencement of the fiscal year. As matters stand now, Netanyahu simply doesn't have the Knesset votes.

The prime minister needs Labor support to pass the budget. He surely knows that this means a senior portfolio for Shimon Peres. My guess is that the one he has in mind is the Treasury. There was no need for the recent news leaks to make the point that Netanyahu doesn't want Peres as foreign minister. The Treasury, however, is another matter. After all, the proposed budget cuts are the recommendations of Treasury officials who are holdovers from the Labor government. Even more to the point, Peres as

finance minister would be much less of a threat to the prime minister than the present incumbent, Dan Meridor, whom he never wanted in the job in the first place. Meridor, moreover, has come out in support of a unity government as the best instrument to negotiate the final settlement with the Palestinians. Thus he could hardly refuse to make the required sacrifice.

Netanyahu might even be prepared to take the process a step further and accept Ehud Barak as defense minister. Yitzhak Mordechai, like Meridor, is perceived by the Prime Minister's Office as a possible rival for future party leadership. Hence he is systematically distanced from the decision-making process, as the Western Wall Tunnel affair demonstrated.

For Labor entering a unity government would mean putting off the succession battle now heating up. Barak's eagerness to bring down the Netanyahu government is understandable, if there is a possibility of a change of party leader before new elections were held. Peres, for his part, would be more inclined toward the unity option. It would be particularly difficult for him to turn it down if it appeared that the continuation of the peace process hung in the balance.

At this point in his career Peres' focus is on his place in history. If there are general elections in the near future, whether or not Peres is Labor's candidate one thing is certain: the Likud won't make credibility an issue. The writer is a legal and political commentator.

The prime minister needs Labor support to pass the budget. So he needs a national unity government

little schooling. Our aim is to show them the importance of respecting their own bodies as early as possible," she said. AMERICAN COUNTRY music can literally drive you to despair: "And if that does not come as a surprise to some, British scientists revealed that you can predict economic recession by the degree of gloom in pop charts. In a report to Britain's main annual science festival, two British psychologists said researchers were just beginning to understand how people in the Western world respond to music.

NICARAGUA HAS had a rather spotty record regarding Israel, so it comes as something of a surprise that it has come out with a postage stamp honoring Golda Meir. The stamp, with a distinctive Israeli motif in the background, is one of a series of nine accomplished women. Others include Marie Curie, Mother Teresa, Indira Gandhi and Eva Peron. Costa Rica has also honored an Israeli subject this year: the 3,000th anniversary of Jerusalem.

Khmer Rouge releases British mine-clearing expert

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (Reuters) - Khmer Rouge guerrillas freed a British mine-clearing expert and his Cambodian interpreter nearly eight months after they were captured near the famous Angkor temple, military officials said yesterday.

Christopher Howes, 36, and Houn Hourth were described as "weak and very thin" by army Chief-of-Staff Gen. Nhek Bunchhay, who spoke to troops sheltering the men in the central province of Kompong Thom.

The men had reportedly been slave laborers since their capture, making and laying mines by day and guarded at night. They left the headquarters of hard-line Khmer Rouge leader Ta Mok on November 5 with a 150-strong mine-laying unit headed south for Kompong Thom.

Gen. Tim Sombol, chief military adviser to First Premier Norodom Ranariddh, said the guerrillas secretly intended to defect. Government negotiators told them to turn over the hostages first. They were transferred to army troops in Kompong Thom's heavy

forests Wednesday.

Nhek Bunchhay flew in a military helicopter to the area Wednesday and spoke with ground troops on the radio. He reported the hostages were "safe." Howes apparently had a broken bandicuff on one wrist. The men were expected to reach Phnom Penh today.

"They are staying with our troops in the jungle of Kompong Thom province," Nhek Bunchhay said. "It is not easy to walk in the jungle on muddy roads to arrive at our military headquarters."

Meanwhile, an estimated 300 hard-line Khmer Rouge guerrillas were pursuing the defecting mine-layers, Nhek Bunchhay said. An equal number of government soldiers was poised to intervene.

Though the Khmer Rouge had occasionally kidnapped foreigners for ransom and sometimes killed them, the guerrillas had largely left alone foreign mine-clearing experts until Howes was abducted March 26.

Some 30 guerrillas surrounded Howes and about 30 Cambodians working for the British-based Mines Advisory Group as they

UN traces 700,000 refugees to east Zaire

ELIF KABAN GENEVA

The United Nations refugee agency said yesterday it had traced the whereabouts - for the first time in weeks - of up to 700,000 missing Rwandan Hutu refugees in east Zaire using Western satellite pictures and overflights.

"We've located these refugees with the help of satellite pictures and information from Western overflights in the region and other sources," UNHCR spokeswoman Melita Sunjic said.

It was the first time a humanitarian agency was able to come up with an overall picture of the mass plight across eastern Zaire's banana plantations, forests and bushes since the Hutu refugees fled an ethnic Zaire revolt.

There have also been Western aid reports from the region of concentrations of displaced Zaireans near Goma and Bukavu.

One million Rwandan Hutus fled to eastern Zaire after 1994's Hutu-led genocide of Tutsis together with Hutu militia, former government leaders and soldiers who led the slaughter.

At the weekend, half a million Hutus poured back across the border into Rwanda after Tutsi rebel shelling forced Hutu rebels to flee Goma, but more than 500,000 remained unaccounted for as aid agencies scrambled to find ways of reaching them.

Sunjic said an estimated 50,000 refugees had

been located in an area some 20 km west of Masisi region near Goma in north Kivu. Another estimated 100,000 refugees had been spotted in an area north of Sake village near Masisi.

UNHCR officials said earlier this week that up to 200,000 refugees - believed to be extremist Hutu militiamen, their families and others who cannot go back to Rwanda - were heading for Masisi, another ethnic tinderbox in the volatile region.

Sunjic said that further south in Bukavu region, the UNHCR had located the whereabouts of some 550,000 refugees - who include Rwandan and Burundian Hutus as well as displaced Zairean villagers.

A huge concentration of an estimated 200,000 refugees had been spotted around 75 km north of Bukavu and another 250,000 people in the opposite direction some 75 km south of Bukavu, Sunjic said.

Deeper into Zaire, an estimated 100,000 refugees had been seen in Fizi area some 100 km south of Uvira region, she added.

But despite information garnered from aerial

surveys and satellite images, Sunjic said, UNHCR had yet to establish which direction the refugees were heading.

UNHCR reported renewed fighting around the Masisi hills above Sake which could block a homeward movement.

UNHCR's Filippo Grandi said in Goma that after almost a day of wrangling the UNHCR finally succeeded in gaining access to Sake. Refugees arriving in Goma from Sake told reporters there had been several clashes in the last few days between Tutsi rebels and members of the ex-Rwandan army and Hutu militia.

The UN said it had succeeded in sending an assessment team into Bukavu. Zairean rebels have up until now prevented aid agencies from entering Bukavu to gain a first-hand picture.

Meanwhile, Canada, the country set to lead any multinational intervention, said yesterday military leaders from countries expected to send troops would finally meet today in Germany. The meeting was originally scheduled for Wednesday.

Military leaders from several nations including the US, France, Britain and Canada were expected to attend the meeting, which was called to review plans for the mission endorsed by the UN before last week's mass return. (AP)

Belgian parliament votes to step up pedophile probe

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Belgium's parliament yesterday supported a recommendation by a panel of its members to ask the country's highest court to investigate further under-age sex allegations against Deputy Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo.

A full session voted 103-20 in favor of the recommendation agreed by the parliamentary commission in the early hours yesterday to request the Cour de Cassation to look into the allegations.

Di Rupo strongly denies he had sex with young boys.

In Belgium homosexuality is allowed by law, but pedophilia - sex with children younger than 16 - is a crime.

Raymond Langendries, the lower house chairman who also chaired the 11-member commission, said after the closed-door vote: "The Chamber adopted by 103 to 20 votes the recommendation of the special commission on Mr Di Rupo."

It was not immediately clear how many abstentions or absentees there had been during the vote in the 150-seat parliament.

The vote was due to be followed by a question and answer session with Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene, who was expected to speak out on the issue for the first

time since the allegations emerged in the Belgian press last weekend.

The court has been asked to submit a report on its findings by December 9 at the latest. The commission will then decide whether the evidence against Di Rupo, who is gay, is strong enough to recommend he be indicted and sent for trial.

Langendries said the parliament would send a fact-finding mission to request the Cour de Cassation.

"The public prosecutor and the court must detail whether they believe there are sufficient indications to justify starting the process of charging (Di Rupo)," he said.

The commission made its recommendation on the basis of a report presented by the Brussels public prosecutor, but ruled parliament would need more information for a more definite assessment of the allegations.

For Di Rupo to be charged, parliament would have to vote to lift his constitutional immunity. That would surely mean the end of his rapid rise in the Socialist Party to the second most senior position in the Belgian government.

By deferring a final recommendation on his fate, the parliamentary commission set a bomb ticking under Belgium's center-left coalition government.

Not doing anything?

Weekend to Paris

\$299

ROI NOTRIP

Since losing his US presidential bid, Bob Dole has become a pitchman for Air France, lending his image to this newspaper ad. Dole will donate the \$3,000 fee for the ad to a community center for the elderly. The ad slogan, "Not doing anything," is a reference to Dole's concession speech, in which he said: "Tomorrow will be the first time in my life I don't have anything to do." (AP)

Police foil bomb attack in N. Ireland

BELFAST (Reuters) - British forces defused a huge car bomb left outside police headquarters in Northern Ireland's second city of Londonderry yesterday, police said.

The Continuity Army group had previously claimed responsibility for planting a car bomb in Belfast in July which was blown up in a controlled explosion by the army.

They were also held responsible for the bomb which wrecked the Killyhelvin Hotel in Enniskillen and injured 17 people in July. The Continuity Army is believed to be the military wing of Republican Sinn Fein, a hard-line group which broke away from Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, in 1986.

The incident further dampened hopes for a return to peace in the province and raised fears about whether the "Loyalist" truce would hold. The IRA, the main republican guerrilla group, ended its 17-month truce last February, setting off bombs in mainland Britain and at military bases in Germany and Northern Ireland.

Multi-party talks on Northern Ireland's political future are bogged down. Strenuous political efforts are being made to win a new IRA truce but Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said he had no information about whether such a cease-fire was imminent.

London Underground resumes after total power failure

LONDON (AP) - It was a good night for taxi drivers, but a bad one for commuters, when London's Underground system was shut down by a power failure Wednesday night.

Normal service was restored yesterday morning for the Underground, which carries 2.7 million passengers a day, London Transport said.

The 393 km. system ground to a halt at about 9:45 p.m. Wednesday when an electrical generator failed. No injuries were reported. London Transport said most passengers had been freed from stalled trains by 10:30, and most lines had a very limited service after midnight.

P.W. Botha refuses to apologize for apartheid

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - Former South African president P.W. Botha said yesterday he would never apologize for apartheid and had no intention of seeking an amnesty under the country's new black rulers.

"I am not guilty of any deed for which I should apologize or ask for amnesty. I therefore have no intention of doing this," the 80-year-old Botha told Archbishop Desmond Tutu, chairman of a post-apartheid truth commission.

Tutu's commission has until the end of 1997 to unravel the human-rights record of the war over apartheid, to pardon human-rights offenders on both sides of the struggle and to award limited compensation to victims.

Botha, one of two surviving white apartheid presidents, made his remarks in a statement he read to Tutu in a private meeting over herbal tea and sausage rolls at his daughter's home in George, east of Cape Town.

Botha made his statement available to reporters after the two-hour meeting.

"Mr Botha made no confessions or dramatic revelations," Tutu said later. "It would have been unrealistic to think we were going to hear a comprehensive mea culpa."

Botha complained that the commission, which has heard harrowing tales by victims and perpetrators of

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If you've been following this space, you know that on August 9, in his weekly financial newsletter, International currency expert Brian Marber recommended investing in British pound futures, then trading at approximately 1.5480 against the U.S. dollar. The British pound has risen steadily ever since.

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Nixon ordered Brookings break-in, report says

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Newly released tapes show president Richard Nixon ordered his chief of staff to break into a liberal think tank in 1971 to steal Vietnam War files, the San Francisco Examiner reported yesterday.

The newspaper quoted from the recording of a June 30, 1971, Oval Office meeting in which Nixon told Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman to "break in and take it out" and "file the files" of the Washington DC-based Brookings Institution.

A spokesman at the Richard Nixon library in Yorba Linda, California, could not immediately be reached for comment. Nixon resigned in 1974 after being implicated in a cover-up of a break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate Building in Washington. The 1971 meeting happened a year before the Watergate burglary.

Nixon died in 1994.

There is no evidence his order to burglarize Brookings was ever carried out, the Examiner said. But it said the tape was the first hard evidence that Nixon personally ordered a break-in to gather political intelligence on his enemies.

The 1971 meeting was included in 201 hours of Nixon tapes recently released by the National Archives, the Examiner said. It said Nixon called the meeting after the Supreme Court ruled that The New York Times and the Washington Post were within their rights to publish the Pentagon Papers, leaked Defense Department documents on US military involvement in Vietnam.

Former Pentagon analyst Daniel Ellsberg leaked the Pentagon Papers and several of his close

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At least 19 killed, 50 hurt in Puerto Rico gas explosion

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - An explosion at a shoe store sheared the side off a six-story building yesterday, killing at least 19 people, injuring 50 and leaving 11 missing. Authorities believe leaking natural gas caused the blast.

The 8:35 a.m. explosion ripped a 15-meter-wide hole up the side of the building, exposing offices and apartments. It left a tangle of concrete and steel beams that filled a city block and shattered windows in nearby buildings and cars.

"There were just parts of bodies lying in the street, torsos, bones, cars blasted against the building," said Ramon Camino, a doctor who arrived at the scene shortly after the explosion.

Queen orders Diana's name struck from Anglican prayers

LONDON (AP) - By royal decree, Princess Diana was removed yesterday from the Church of England's prayer for the royal family because she is divorced from Prince Charles.

Beginning on Sunday, the words "Charles Prince of Wales" will replace the words "Prince and Princess of Wales" in the prayer, said a statement from Lambeth Palace, residence of the archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. George Carey.

The church statement said the move, ordered by Queen Elizabeth II, was "a necessary matter of form now that the marriage has ended."

"The Princess of Wales is still included in the prayer for the royal family [generally]," said church spokeswoman Leslie Perry. "And there is nothing to stop people praying for her by name if they want to, but not attached to Prince Charles."

A reference to Diana has already been deleted from the morning prayer in the House of Commons.

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will be held this Sunday evening, November 24, 1996 (14 Kislev 5757), 8 p.m., at Hatzi Yisrael Synagogue, 14 Rehov Hovevei Zion, Jerusalem, at 8 p.m.

The unveiling of the matzeva will take place Monday morning, November 25 (14 Kislev), 8 a.m. at Har Tarnit, Gushi Tav Tet, Kehilat Yerushalayim (First right turn on the road towards the parking lot of Har Hamenuhot).

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Friday, November 22, 1996

7

'You promised, we believed, you betrayed'

Right-wing activists voted for Binyamin Netanyahu because they believed he would turn back the Oslo clock. Now they feel disappointed by him, Bill Hutman reports

THEY call themselves "the disappointed" and "the betrayed." No one can count their number exactly, but they are out there, feeling gloomy and distressed, when they had hoped to be basking in the glory of a great success. The *meuchavim*, as they are known in Hebrew, are an apparently growing number of hard-core backers of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu — who voted for him because they opposed the Oslo agreements — who in recent months have had second thoughts about their support.

Now, the *meuchavim* face a major decision about how they should vent their opposition to Netanyahu.

For most of them, it is a question of whether to take to the streets again to protest against the government, as during the Rabin and Peres regimes. For a smaller minority of extremists, violence also is considered a potential tactic.

Security officials have issued repeated warnings that redeployment in Hebron is likely to spark a violent reaction in extremist Jewish circles, and that the prime minister himself might be a target.

Still, the *meuchavim* are for the most part law-abiding citizens. They are upset with the government and struggling with how to express their opposition.

"You promised, we believed, you betrayed" is the title of a statement released this week by the Women in Green, a group that was among the most vocal opponents of the Labor government and a strong backer of Netanyahu during the election campaign. Nadia Matar, the group's leader, says the slogan sums up the feeling today of many Netanyahu supporters who count themselves among the *meuchavim*.

Representatives of an array of right-wing groups, including Zo Artzenu and Women in Green, have been meeting in recent weeks to come up with a formula for, as they see it, "getting Netanyahu back on track." The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza also has been considering possible action.

The decision is far from simple. Protesting against Rabin and Peres was intended to benefit the political opposition. Today, despite the anger

with Netanyahu, no one on the right wants Peres or anyone else in the opposition to return to power. The complexity of the decision the *meuchavim* face explains the council's flip-flop in recent weeks.

At a heated emergency meeting three weeks ago, the council made what was presented as a dramatic decision to demonstrate against the planned redeployment in Hebron, and the slowness of settlement development. The next day, the threat to take to the streets was dropped, after a meeting between council heads and Netanyahu. Council of Jewish Communities members left the meeting saying they were promised settlements would be cut free of restrictions on development.

Yet the settlement restrictions were not lifted, at least as much as the council wanted, so it again voiced its threat to demonstrate against the government. Last Friday, there was a small sit-down strike by council members outside the Prime Minister's Office.

But the plans for wide-scale protests heralded at the emergency meeting remain on hold. Council leaders say they are reluctant to enter a public confrontation with Netanyahu and prefer to continue quiet lobbying to change government policy.

"You can't hold demonstrations every day," said council director-general Aharon Domb, in an interview this week in *Ha'aretz*. "You can't ignore the fact that the situation has changed. The tools that are used must reflect the situation. Public pressure is not just demonstrations. Organizing Likud Committee members can be just as effective."

The council, however, is under pressure to act. Under Rabin and Peres, grass-roots groups were the first to call for big public protests, with the settlers' council eventually following. That may again be the case. "Many in the national camp are slow to wake up," said Women in Green's Matar.

This week, the Women in Green came out strongly for public protesting against Netanyahu's policies in Judea and Samaria. "Certainly, we can wait no longer, when all indications are that by silence, and not criticizing Bibi, we are blindly showing



Dr. Esther Beit-Halshami, of the right-wing group Women in Green holds a placard as a Palestinian passerby comes by for a closer look. (Brian Hendler)

support for a man who has not at all proven himself as yet to be a strong and inspirational leader," the group said. "While we do not in any way wish to partake in bringing this government down, we have decided that it is beneficial to the national cause to raise our voices in vigorous protest when we see the ominous signs of the direction which the present government is taking."

Accordingly, we have decided to take decisive action criticizing Netanyahu for his failure to date to carry out what he had promised the Jewish people."

Matar said her breaking point came well before talks advanced on a Hebron redeployment, when Netanyahu agreed to meet Arafat over the summer. "After four years of protests, of going to jail, I expected things to be different this time," said Matar. Last week, as in the days of Labor, Matar again found herself dragged off in a police van allegedly for disturbing the peace during a

small protest in front of the prime minister's residence.

This week, Habad, which during the election strongly backed Netanyahu, openly showed its displeasure with the prime minister's policies in the territories. Thousands of Habad followers converged on Hebron Tuesday evening to protest any planned redeployment. Habad, unlike the Women in Green, has the numbers and influence to make Netanyahu listen. Several weeks ago, Habad leaders met the prime minister to press him to make no concessions in the territories. They left the meeting disappointed.

Habad spokesman Menahem Brod said the movement has second thoughts about its campaign slogan, "Bibi - Good for the Jews."

"We have made our position clear to the prime minister," Brod said. "But we also know that we must be careful, because we all know that the alternative to Bibi is Peres or some-

one else in Labor, and that we certainly don't want."

There are *meuchavim*, however, who are not satisfied with normal protest. They "have decided to go out and look for their own future leader," said Matar.

"The issue has already been raised at the weekly meetings of the smaller right-wing groups. It is too early to speak of particular names. But someone else will come up, and we

must already begin laying the groundwork."

Moshe Feiglin, head of Zo Artzenu, and Yehuda Etzion, a leader of the Jewish underground, have joined forces in a quest "to find a new Jewish leadership," as they explain in a leaflet distributed at synagogues in Judea and Samaria last Shabbat.

"We have already established a small committee to search for a new

candidate for premiership — not someone from the left or right, but someone that believes in the real values of Israel and Judaism," says Etzion.

Etzion classes himself with the *meuchavim*, but says he has taken the term a step further than it generally is understood. Most *meuchavim* have lost faith with Netanyahu. Etzion and a few others have lost faith with the entire system.

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Gazans take part in a recent cleanup in Khan Yunis sponsored by Interns for Peace.

Gazans get angry while nothing changes

As living standards fall and tensions rise, an eerie feeling of violence and hope fills the air, Steve Rodan reports from the streets of Khan Yunis

FRIDAY morning in Khan Yunis and the streets of Gaza's second largest town are empty. The exception is a group of young people on Baher Street, many of them wielding brooms. It's the annual cleanup day in this city - sponsored by Interns for Peace, financed by a European Union grant, and attended by youngsters from around the strip.

"They came to school and said, 'Do you want to come to the promenade?'" recalls Ahmed Maslah, a 13-year-old boy from Khan Yunis. "So, I came and worked."

The cleanup, however, is a bright spot in the dismal state of the Gaza Strip. Two months after their gun battles with Israel around the territories, Palestinians appear to have sunk even deeper into despair as they feel trapped with increasing unemployment, a decreasing standard of living, restricted freedom of movement, and greater dependence on Israel - which is greater than ever.

"The mood in Gaza among the people is one of anger over the fact that nothing is changing," says Wadie Abu Nassar, a lecturer at the Open University and a specialist on Palestinian affairs. "The simple people don't care if [Palestinian Authority chief Yasser] Arafat is strong or not. They care if they have food and right now prices are rising all the time. People had high expectations and the comedown has been drastic." Palestinian officials quietly acknowledge that the economic depression quickly erased the euphoria Gazans expressed after the September gun battles. The result is that Arafat and his aides are once again raising the specter of renewed violence against

Israel.

"We are at a crossroads," Hassan Asfour, a leading Palestinian negotiator, told the Voice of Palestine on Tuesday. "The Israeli government can't force itself on us as a foreign power in areas under control of the PA." But the mood in Gaza does not appear militant. As one Palestinian described it, it's every person out for himself. On the upper scale of society, most of the Western-educated Palestinians who came from Europe and the US to help the PA have long left. Further down the scale, Palestinian women are beginning to sell their jewelry - acquired as part of their dowry - to make ends meet.

Muna Hreih has other concerns on her mind. Her 20-year-old son Khalil is in Nasser Hospital with a bullet in his stomach. Muna and a family friend are introduced to a visitor when they begin to wail. Khalil, they say, was shot by Israeli troops outside the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom during the Palestinian attacks in September. He needs proper care. Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis doesn't even have an X-ray machine. "He was going to university," Muna says. "He was never in the police."

The visitor, however, doesn't understand what Khalil was doing in the clash at Kfar Darom, where

hundreds of young Palestinians, backed up by the fire of PA police, hurled rocks and firebombs and attempted to scale the walls of the Jewish settlement in what Israeli officials maintain was part of a widespread offensive supported by Arafat.

Fathi Salaam Wadi shakes his head slowly and explains. His version of the fighting is that the Israeli soldiers fired into a crowd of what was basically a peaceful protest at Kfar Darom. "The events are the result of the actions of the Israeli authorities," says Wadi, secretary of the Palestinian Movement to Support Peace and Equality, a body that meets with Israeli left-wing groups. "The Palestinian people came to protest the closure, and the Israeli army responded by shooting. Many civilians were shot and the police tried to keep the people away from the shooting. When several of the Palestinian officers were shot in the process, they opened fire to protect themselves. They did so without any orders from the PA."

Muna returns to pleading for her son. She is not choosy. Khalil can be transferred to Tel Hashomer Hospital or eastern Jerusalem's Mokkassed Hospital. Just get him out of Gaza. "He has problems with his legs," Muna says in a now calm voice. "He needs an operation. We are calling on all the nations. We don't have the capability here. We want to Abu Amar [Arafat]." She cries again.

Wadi intervenes. "Patience, patience," he says. A young man adds, "Only Allah can help."

BY NOW, an hour into the effort, the youngsters have stopped sweeping. Organizers had planned to clean a large portion of Baher Street, which extends from downtown Khan Yunis to the sea, but it appears that no more than 100 meters of the thoroughfare will have been swept. Instead, the men and women counselors of Interns for Peace, largely students from Al Azhar University, continue the job while the youngsters pose for photographs.

Majid Halil Abu Mirabel, however, is still going at it. He is no counselor. He is a hero in the Gaza Strip. At the recent Olympics in Atlanta, Mirabel was part of the first delegation of Palestinians to participate. Mirabel recalls the weeks in Atlanta in an even voice. He met US President Bill Clinton; was interviewed by scores of journalists, and ran in the 10 km race. It took 31 minutes, he says, but doesn't remember what spot he took. The important thing, he says, is that Palestine was finally represented in

A delicate task ahead

Tariq Zaid, who is set to become head of Hebron's Palestinian police, tells Tom Gross he is optimistic about the future



Zaid: We can be in control within three hours. (Tom Gross)

"I am personally ready to go and live with the Jews in Kiryat Arba, to show them that we can live together," says Tariq Zaid, the man who will shortly be responsible for a team of 850 Palestinian police officers in and around Hebron.

"Peace is not about one party being strong and the other weak. There's no peace with inequality," he says. "We want an end to this bloody war."

Interviewed last weekend in the village of Bani Naim, seven kilometers west of Hebron, Zaid seemed on the whole reasonable, friendly, even warm, despite his reputation among Palestinians as a hard man who brooks no nonsense.

"I think Zaid really means it," says a well-informed source close to the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. "He'd really go and live in Kiryat Arba. He is willing to put his wife and children in the hands of the settlers as a guarantee that settlers can trust his police to protect their children."

But Zaid has a harsher side too, and not all of his opinions were so reasonable, as became apparent towards the end of the interview. He was, as he describes it, a "commander in the field" for 30 years, "in Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen," although he refuses to specify exactly what he did, admitting only that he was in an unnamed "mobile unit." In fact, it has been reported that he coordinated Katyusha rocket attacks on Galilee prior to the 1982 war.

Zaid went on to establish his reputation among Palestinians in Lebanon in 1982, distinguishing himself by his willingness to stay and fight following the Israeli invasion, rather than fleeing as many other senior PLO figures did. Add to this his close ties to some of the Abu Sineh clan, Hebron's largest family, and many believe he's the right man to deal with the very delicate task of policing most of Hebron, home to some of the most extreme elements on both sides of the Arab-Israeli divide.

Not surprisingly, Zaid is a close confidant of Yasser Arafat. "We lived together in tents in Jordan," he says. "I am one of the people who the president trusts very strongly."

Born in a village near Tiberias in 1946 and now a father of two boys and three girls ("My youngest son is an officer in the police," he announced proudly), Zaid says he is fully prepared for his new role.

"We are completely ready to deploy. It's simply a political decision. It should have been done months ago. The Israelis say they need six hours to redeploy. I have told them we need only three hours to be fully in control."

The 400 police who will be in Hebron itself have been trained at the police academy in Jericho. Most are now waiting in — about 15 km. south of Hebron. In addition, 450 more police will be based in five nearby villages.

"All vehicles and equipment are ready. Our police will have Kalashnikovs and pistols. Even if the political agreement says they should not carry weapons, we shall carry everything that we need to maintain security. Of course we should be properly armed. Just as a good woman should have a strong man, so a good police should have strong weapons, in order to do its job and uphold the agreement."

Over the past seven weeks of negotiations, media reports have indicated time and again that the parties were days, hours even, from signing an agreement, that redeployment was imminent. Were they

among the Jewish community in Hebron he is not prepared to meet. He has, in fact, already been building bridges with the settler community, though he is reluctant to divulge too much information for fear of jeopardizing these fragile contacts (although he did say he had "friends in the Likud, including an MK").

Zaid admits that meetings have already taken place with "other settlers, who have conveyed messages to the Hebron settlers," although he refused to confirm that it was he who had personally met them. "The last meeting was about eight or so days ago. They said they are ready to live here under Palestinian rule," he says.

HOWEVER, on the crucial question of whether Jews can live in Hebron should the town come fully under Palestinian authority at a later date, Zaid was ambiguous. "All Jews who own houses here can stay and are welcome," he says. But when pressed, he refused to specify whether he was referring to all of today's Jewish community, who the PA claim are "illegally occupying" their homes, or only pre-1929 Jewish land owners.

Zaid was clearer on another matter. If in the future Hebron comes under complete Palestinian sovereignty, he says Jews will still definitely be welcome as tourists or religious pilgrims, "just as I have the right to visit Tel Aviv, which I'm looking forward to doing."

Zaid says he has not played any direct role during the present negotiations. "I am a policeman, not a politician, although obviously the Palestinian negotiators consult us, they need to know what is going on on the ground. I am sure the Palestinian side will not [give way on the key remaining issues in dispute.] hot pursuit or the full reopening of Shubadeh Street [the main artery through Hebron's Jewish quarter]. Only to open it step by step would divide the city in two. Peace is not a question of how long a street is," he says.

Throughout the interview, Zaid had seemed like a moderate who had accepted historic compromise with the Jewish state. Yet at the end, he suddenly made comments that very much suggested he was part of the old guard. He referred to Israel as the "occupied land," at which point one of the others in the room told him to stop saying this.

But Zaid went on to say that he believed that in the future Jews and Arabs will all live together — "the two sides will come together into one" — and there would be only one country between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

Who would run it? "It will be a democracy, so whoever is in the majority," he said.

Was he really sure of this? "I am as sure as I see you now in front of me with my own eyes, that in the end there will be one country, and in the final agreement I will get my land — a house and 6000 dunams near Tiberias — back," he said emphatically. "This is not some dream. Two years ago, people would have said I was dreaming if I said I would be sitting here now in this office."

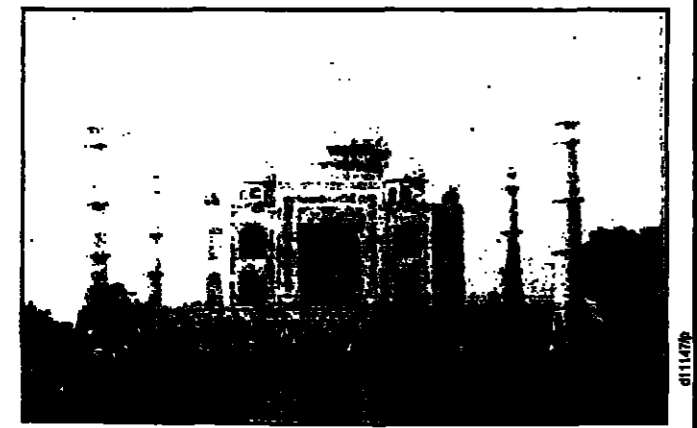
"In fact this is what 95 percent of Palestinian Authority officials say in private," says one prominent Israeli with close ties to the PA. "They think that in the end the Jews will see the light and accept minority status within one state. Zaid is not only more honest, he is in fact better than many other top PA officials. He believes in confederation, with dual citizenship, full rights to buy and sell property, etc."

As far as it is possible to tell, Zaid is more a man clinging to a naive dream, rather than a calculating strategist who has crafted some plan of stages to eventually eradicate Israel by force.

It is hard to decipher what Zaid really thinks. On the one hand he seems like a smiling moderate. But one also senses a certain amount of double talk, which casts doubt on whether he intends to fully respect the Oslo accords. In any case Zaid seems to be doing enough to win important friends. "He is a man of honor in a dishonorable situation," the settler from the council of Jewish communities says.

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It was 33 years ago today...

I cried and cried and cried. The last time I recalled crying that hard for a public figure was when president Roosevelt died just before the end of World War II."

Elaine Kallet, a poet and artist from Jerusalem who made aliya in 1988, was recalling her reactions to the news of president John F. Kennedy's assassination, 33 years ago today. The crying, the feelings of devastation and fear, figured in the reminiscences of four former Americans living here, all of whom drew a possible analogy between the public reactions to JFK's assassination and that of Yitzhak Rabin's last year. All four remembered vividly where they had been and the circumstances under which they had learned of the two assassinations. Why did the JFK assassination elicit such widespread feelings of fear? What were you frightened of?

Kallet says there was talk that the underworld had had Kennedy killed. And then there was the fear of the Russians. (The JFK assassination came about a year after the confrontation over Soviet missiles in Cuba).

US immigrants draw parallels between the Rabin and Kennedy assassinations. Yosef Goell reports

Prof. David Ritchie of the Hebrew University Political Science Department was in Caesar Hall at Harvard, where he was a graduate student. He recalls people crying and church bells ringing and that same sense of fear. As a political science student, he remembers thinking that just because Kennedy was shot, it didn't necessarily mean that he would die. Previous presidents who had been shot, from Lincoln through Garfield and McKinley, had died because of the botched ministrations of doctors using the less-developed medicines that were available a century ago.

"What were we frightened of? The fact that something so unexpected had happened to suddenly remove the person who was looking after the store for the rest of us. I was never that committed to Kennedy. He was not terribly

effective but he made the right noises.

"I believe that the analogy to the effect on the public that the Rabin assassination had does hold water. Many of us feel similarly devastated over Rabin's murder because of that same feeling of the sudden and violent removal of the major actor who was taking care of things for all of us."

Barbara Heller, a Jerusalem real-estate agent, recalls hearing of the JFK assassination on the radio while teaching at the experimental school in Harlem, New York. "I went into the streets and saw other people who were as horrified as I was. We felt cut off, alone, devastated. As if someone had stuck a knife into us."

"I felt the same way about the Rabin assassination. In both cases I felt, 'What is the world

coming to?' I still feel that way about Kennedy, although I no longer believe he was a great president. In his style, however, he was a true representative of a new generation of Americans."

Dov Levy, who came on aliya 18 years ago and is now retired in the Jerusalem suburb of Mevasseret Zion, recalls going out into the streets in Detroit and finding them empty. "It was like after an earthquake. I remember feeling that nothing was ever going to be the same again."

"I deeply identified with Kennedy. I had grown up in Boston and was familiar with JFK as a rough-and-tumble politician. But I admired his youth and his style. It was his oratory and the spirit of the times that he represented that persuaded me to go into public service with the Civil Rights Commission."

Judy Nussbaum, formerly of the Hebrew University's School for Overseas Students, recalls learning about the JFK assassination when she was pregnant with her second child and shopping in a New Jersey suburb.

"I saw all the salesgirls crying. I wasn't emotionally committed to Kennedy but I was just as shocked. 'I can't help thinking that just as we still don't know the full truth about the JFK assassination, we also don't know the full truth behind the Rabin assassination. For example, we do know that [Avishai] Raviw was a planted [General Security Service] provocateur in the groups around the assassin Yigal Amir.'"

Prof. Ritchie doesn't believe in conspiracy theories, "because I am used to making up my mind on the basis of hard facts, and even 33 years later there are no hard facts to back up the JFK conspiracy theory. But I simply don't buy the scenario that Oswald could have got off three shots from the \$25 rifle he had picked up and have killed Kennedy alone from that distance."

"I think one of the differences between the two cases is that even if we never got an entirely satisfactory explanation for Oswald's motives and actions we can definitely think of him as some sort of weirdo; in the case of Yigal Amir there is something that quite definitely went wrong with our Judaism itself."

"What bothers me about the country's reaction to the Rabin assassination is that while some rabbis initially admitted that Amir's background showed that there were some real problems in Judaism, leading religious politicians refused to say so, too."

"Admittedly, Rabin supporters did come out too strongly against the entire national religious camp, but it would have helped if [NRP leader Zevulun] Hammer and others in his camp would have come out openly and admitted to the serious dangers inherent in taking religious politics to extremes."

Elaine Kallet says, "I was never a Rabin fan because I am somewhat right wing in my politics here. What especially shocked me was the thought that it was a fellow Jew who killed him."

"One of the differences between the two cases and our two countries is that here all of us are so profoundly and personally involved in the big political issues of the day. In this regard I believe that our leaders definitely flubbed the possibility of 'using' the Rabin assassination to try to forge a greater sense of national unity and to bind up the nation's wounds. The election campaign and Netanyahu's election didn't help."

"But I mostly blame Peres and his crowd for failing to overcome the deep divisions in our society. It would have taken a lot of doing but had they put their mind to it I



An uncanny likeness (top): In 1963, Jacqueline Kennedy leans over President John F. Kennedy as an unidentified Secret Service agent stands on the bumper of the presidential car after the president was shot; in a similar 1995 photo, Israeli security personnel push Rabin into a car just after he was wounded. (AP/Fle Photos)



Abraham Lincoln John F. Kennedy (Camera Press)

The strange case of Lincoln and Kennedy

THE assassinations of presidents Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy were linked by an amazing series of coincidences, according to an entry in *The Reader's Digest Book of Strange Stories, Amazing Facts*.

Abraham Lincoln was first elected to Congress in 1846. John Kennedy followed exactly 100 years later. Lincoln was elected as the 16th president of the United States on November 6, 1860. Kennedy was elected to be the 35th president on November 8, 1960. After their deaths they were both succeeded by Southerners named Johnson. Andrew Johnson was born in 1808. Lyndon Johnson in 1908. John Wilkes Booth, the man who killed Lincoln, was born in 1839, while Lee Harvey Oswald, Kennedy's killer, was born in 1939. Both men were Southerners, and both were themselves shot before they could come to trial.

Booth committed his crime in a theater and then ran to a warehouse. Oswald pulled the trigger on Kennedy from the window of a warehouse and ran to a theater.

On the day he was assassinated Lincoln told a guard, William H. Crook: "I believe there are men who want to take my life... And I have no doubt they will do it... If it is to be done, it is impossible to prevent it."

And Kennedy unsuspectingly told his wife, Jackie, and his personal adviser Ken O'Donnell: "If anyone really wanted to shoot the president of the United States, it's not a very hard job. All that one has to do is to get to a high building some day, with a telescope rifle, and there is nothing anybody can do."

"Some day" proved to be that day. He was shot two-and-a-half hours later.

Lincoln and Kennedy were both historic civil-rights campaigners, and both were shot on a Friday, in the back of their head. Their wives were with them.

Lincoln was shot in Ford's Theater. Kennedy was shot in an automobile made by the Ford Motor Company - a Lincoln.

One final, unhappy coincidence is that Lincoln had a secretary named Kennedy, who advised him not to go to the theater in Washington on that fateful day...

Kennedy had a secretary named Lincoln who strongly advised him against going to Dallas.

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The RICHARD KOEBNER CENTRE FOR GERMAN HISTORY INVITES TO AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

German Anti-Semitism Reconsidered

at The VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE

Tuesday, November 26:

19:00 Opening Session: The Nature of German Anti-Semitism
M. Zimmermann, (Jerusalem): The Rise and Fall of German Anti-Semitism
O. Heilbrunner, (Jerusalem): German Anti-Semitism in the 19th and early 20th Century
S. Aschheim, (Jerusalem): The Goldhagen Affair and the German-Jewish Dialogue

Wednesday, November 27:

9:00 Traditional Anti-Judaism
M. Toch, (Jerusalem): The Medieval Face
J. Friedrich Battenberg, (Darmstadt): Early Modern Germany

11:00 The Historian and Anti-Semitism
G. G. Iggers, (Buffalo): Academic Anti-Semitism 1870 - 1933
P. von Papen, (New York): 'Scientific' Anti-Semitism in the Third Reich
R. Wistrich, (Jerusalem): Some Thoughts on the Goldhagen Controversy

15:00 Anti-Semitism in the Second Reich and the Weimar Republic
O. Blaschke, (Bielefeld): German Catholics during the Second Reich
R. J. Evans, (London): The German Working Class 1870 - 1933
A. Kauders, (London): Jewish Exclusion from the Weimar Polity
D. Bankier, (Jerusalem): Weimar Left from the Perspective of the Third Reich

Thursday, November 28:

9:00 Regional Aspects and Everyday Life
T. van Rahden, (Bielefeld): Breslau; G. Alexander, (Jerusalem): Berlin
E. Domke, (Haifa): Hamburg; Y. Borut, (Jerusalem): Western Germany

14:30 Toward the Final Solution?
S. Epstein, (Jerusalem): French Perceptions of German Anti-Semitism
U. Herbert, (Freiburg): The Intellectual Leadership of the SS
O. Bartov, (New Brunswick): Germans, Jews and the Holocaust
H. Mommsen, (Bochum): The Problem of Collective Responsibility

20:00 Panel Discussion: The German Anti-Semitism - A Sonderweg?
(at the Fisher-Hall of Mishkenot Sha'ananim, Yemin Moshe)
Participants: Yehuda Bauer (Jerusalem), Reinhard Rürup (Berlin), Wolfgang Schieder (Cologne)

All lectures will be held in English.

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Prof. Michael Adler

Department of Social Policy University of Edinburgh

on "Rights and Discretion in Social Security - did Titmuss get the balance right?"

at Beit Belgia Faculty Club, Room 05 The Hebrew University Givat Ram, Jerusalem

on Tuesday, November 26, 1996, at 4.45 p.m. Light refreshments will be served at 4.30 p.m.

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Sterling NIS 5.4258
German mark NIS 2.1514

MARKETS
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Last Change
DJ Industrials 618.47 +1.55
DJ Transport 224.49 -0.14

Other stock market indexes
Last Change
NYSE 100 279.24 +0.15
NASDAQ 112.25 +0.12
S&P 500 279.24 +0.15

Israeli stocks in US
Last Change
NYSE / AMEX / NASDAQ / OTC
Am to Pny 4.875 +0.125
Am to Pny 4.875 +0.125

Libor rates
Last Change
3 months 5.50 +0.00
6 months 5.50 +0.00

Foreign financial data courtesy of
Commstock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

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Coffee (C) 102.50 +0.10

London commodities
Last Change
Cocoa (L) 172.50 +0.10
Coffee (L) 102.50 +0.10

Spot market metals (US)
Last Change
Gold spot 376.50 +0.25
Silver spot 4.92 +0.03

New York metal futures
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Gold spot 376.50 +0.25
Silver spot 4.92 +0.03

London metal fixes
Last Change
Gold spot 376.50 +0.25
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Stocks gain as investors bet on rate cut

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STOCK investors are optimistic on the expectation that the central bank will cut interest rates when it sets policy for December Monday.
That helped shares advance yesterday for a third day. Investors expressed optimism that the central bank will slash interest rates after the government pressed its case for additional budget cuts.

Eurobourses down, hit by rate fears

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses ended the day mostly down yesterday, disheartened by inflation worries and a poor performance by Wall Street after its record-breaking run.
On currency markets, the dollar was stronger against the yen, but earlier highs reached after Japanese authorities shut down a troubled bank, the first time they have done so in five decades. Sterling also rose to its best level since 1992.

Dow dips as technology shares run out of steam

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks edged lower with bonds yesterday amid some light profit-taking on this month's powerful rally in big technology names and other blue-chip shares.
The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 11.55 points to close at 6,418.47, marking only the second time in 14 sessions that the blue-chip barometer has fallen. Broad-market indexes were mostly lower, with the technology-laden Nasdaq market showing the widest loss.

CURRENCY CROSS RATES

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YEN 1.3458/74 0.5318/23 1.1382/96
SFr 118.11/28 0.4688/73 87.77/82
FFr 0.2946/50 0.1164/85 21.89/94 24.9100/28

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Syria has arsenal of nerve gas, expert says

DAVID RUDGE

A LEADING Israeli expert on chemical and bacteriological warfare said yesterday that Syria has an arsenal of deadly nerve gases and, reportedly, anthrax, a lethal bacterium.

Dr. Danny Shoham, a senior researcher at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, said the Syrians had the chemical agents installed in thousands of aerial bombs and between 100-200 warheads for Scud B and the more advanced Scud C ground-to-ground missiles.

He stressed, however, that Syria has built up its non-conventional arsenal primarily as a deterrent and to counter-balance Israel's reputed nuclear capability.

Shoham, a former senior army intelligence analyst, stated that in his opinion the prospect of Syria initiating a non-conventional strike against Israel is low.

He added, however, that such a possibility could not be ruled out completely, especially if Syria's vital interests or the very existence of the regime were threatened or power passed into the hands of someone less rational than President Hafez Assad.

He spoke to *The Jerusalem Post* following comments made earlier this week by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who said Syria's chemical warfare capability posed a serious threat.

"Syria is reckoned to be the most advanced Arab country in terms of its ability to materialize a chemical warfare threat," said Shoham.

"The main components of Syria's chemical arsenal are the nerve agents, 'Sarin' and more recently VX which is more virulent and can penetrate through the skin and not only the respiratory system, and also persists longer because of its less volatile nature."

Shoham said the nerve agents had been produced in Syria over more than a decade, initially with the possible assistance of the former Soviet Union, then private Western European concerns and more recently through suppliers in China, India, and North Korea.

Lately there have been reports that Russian scientists have once again been helping the Syrians to produce the nerve agents, particularly VX.

According to Shoham, the VX agent produced by the Syrians plausibly resembles the Soviet version of the deadly gas which is more toxic than that manufactured originally by the Americans.

"There are reports that the Syrians have also produced anthrax, a highly lethal bacterium, which together with their two chemical warfare options, make their non-conventional threat much more significant in terms of strategic capabilities."

Nasrallah: Hizbullah's patience is wearing thin

DAVID RUDGE

HIZBULLAH leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said the group remains committed to upholding the Grapes of Wrath understandings, but condemned what he said were continued 'violations' by Israel.

Nasrallah charged that IDF shelling of villages north of the security zone continues and that Israeli apologies are insufficient. Prior to April's Operation Grapes of Wrath, Hizbullah retaliation for attacks on civilians took the form of Katyusha-rocket bombardments in the Galilee.

The understandings that ended Grapes of Wrath, however, banned attacks on civilians on both sides of the border, including villages north of the security zone.

Nasrallah's comments, reported in Lebanese newspapers yesterday, followed a meeting between the Hizbullah leader and France's ambassador to Lebanon Pierre Lafon.

"Increasing Israeli attacks on civilians call for more serious and stricter work by the monitoring group," Nasrallah was quoted as

having told the ambassador. "Empty Israeli apologies don't protect the civilians. The Islamic Resistance (Hizbullah's fighting arm) has been very patient and has displayed great self-restraint," he said.

The meeting between Lafon and Nasrallah was the first between the two men. Lafon said it was part of his duties to meet with leaders of all Lebanese political parties.

France next month assumes chairmanship of the five-nation monitoring group that until now has been headed by the US.

Lebanese newspapers reported that a house in Jarjajah village in the Iqlim al-Toufah region north of the zone was set ablaze early Wednesday, allegedly as a result of IDF shelling.

The house's 15 occupants were all away at the time, but the newspapers charged the shelling was a flagrant breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

There was no confirmation of the reports from any independent sources.

Tarif, Moussa discuss Azzam

CAIRO (AP) - Labor MK Sallah Tarif held talks yesterday with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and later told reporters that their discussions touched on the fate of Azzam Azzam, the Israeli arrested by Egyptian authorities this month on suspicion of spying.

Tarif said he would later request permission from the Egyptian government to see Azzam.

Following his talks with Moussa, Tarif said he had faith in "Egypt's judicial system and its fairness," according to a report by Egypt's official Middle East News Agency.

He did not elaborate and Moussa did not speak to reporters.

Azzam, 35, of the Maghar village in the Galilee, had been employed as a mechanic at the Egyptian-Israeli Tefron textile factory in Cairo when he was arrested by Egyptian security agents in front of a Cairo hotel.

Observers said yesterday, particularly on the part of the US. But the Syrians would like US pressure to be brought to bear on Israel to start talks from the same point where the previous government left off - apparently an oral agreement to return to the 1967 borders.

For his part, Netanyahu told Specter that he was willing to renegotiate on the basis of UN resolutions 242 and 338 - but without pre-conditions.

At all events, both Netanyahu and the Syrians have pointed out that no movement on the Syrian track should be expected until the new government is set up in Washington in January.

State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said Specter was not acting on behalf of the administration when he suggested a Washington summit.

Davies said US officials might meet with Specter and get a briefing on the trip when he returns.

Meanwhile, Specter, in his report back to Netanyahu, with whom he conferred for the second time in 24 hours yesterday, tried to allay fears with regard to Syrian troop movements.

"On the subject of the tensions, President Assad said there was no hostile intent on the part of Syria and that the army maneuvers were purely routine," Specter told reporters later. He added Assad had assured him "that there was no sense of hostility with respect to Syrian intentions in any way, shape or form."

Observers said Specter's visit to Damascus was prominently reported in the Syrian media.

Meanwhile, a senior Syrian official yesterday pledged his country would use whatever means were at its disposal to liberate the Golan Heights, if the peace process collapsed - an implicit reference to the military option.

Tawfik Salha, a member of the national command of the ruling Ba'ath Party, made his remarks in an address to the eighth congress of the Syrian Communist Party.

"If the peace process fails, Syria will never agree to the continued occupation of its territory," said Salha. "It will work to liberate it in the manner that it deems appropriate, and it is ready to face any eventualities."

The editor of the nightly controlled ruling party daily, *Al-Balagh*, yesterday launched a vicious attack on Netanyahu and called on the international community to "shackle the hands of the criminal and neo-Nazi advocates of war, aggression and expansion before it is too late."



Some 300 Soldiers' Welfare Association volunteers from the South gather in Ashkelon yesterday for a conference. (Dana Staman/Israel Sun)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ministry warns against eating fish from Yeroham
The Health Ministry yesterday warned the public against purchasing and eating fish from the artificial lake in Yeroham. Inspectors found that large numbers of fish have died in the lake, apparently due to untreated sewage entering the water. Consuming fish living in such an environment can be dangerous to one's health, the ministry said. *Judy Siegel*

Judgeship candidates' names to be made public
The names of candidates for judgeships will now be publicized, to give the public an opportunity to comment before a choice is made, the committee on appointing judges decided yesterday.

The change is meant to protect the public's right to know and enable public supervision of the committee's work. Previous appointment committees had refused to publicize names, on the grounds that public discussion might impair the committee's independence and cause lawyers who are candidates to lose business. *Evelyn Gordon*

Search for Edri resumes
The Civil Guard renewed searches for missing soldier Sharon Edri yesterday morning at the request of the special investigation team looking into Edri's September disappearance. The searchers will check wells and caves and other hard-to-reach places that were

skipped over in previous searches. They will check the Beit Shemesh area for the next few days and then proceed to search around Beithleem, Hebron, Lod and other locations. *Ilim*

Police to question Dayan on Sunday
Police are scheduled to question Isomet MK Haim Dayan on Sunday morning regarding allegations that he assaulted his wife Rabel during an argument at their Migdal Ha'emek home on Saturday. Police and Dayan agreed that he would be questioned at the Ha'armmakim District Police headquarters in Nazareth.

The inquiry is going ahead, in accordance with new regulations regarding cases of alleged domestic violence, even though Rabel Dayan withdrew her complaint. *David Rudge*

Haifa Histadrut workers call off strike
Employees of the Histadrut's Haifa and district branch decided yesterday to call off their strike, which had been called to protest the union leadership's demand to reduce the number of staff members. The workers, at a meeting in the afternoon, agreed to branch chairman Baruch Zaltz's compromise proposal to hold negotiations with the Histadrut's leadership over its demand to dismiss dozens of workers. The number of employees has been cut from 280 to around 150 in the past two years. *David Rudge*

ABEB-RABBO

(Continued from Page 1)
which lead to confrontation with the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority." He said in a pointed warning to the US that it could not sit passively as a facilitator while Israel expanded settlements opposed by the US, because the result "will be the destruction of all that has been achieved between the two sides."

The Prime Minister's Office issued a statement saying "This rhetoric does not advance anything. Threats are useless. The Palestinian Authority knows very well that a decision is needed from it to conclude the negotiations and the absence of such a decision by it is the cause of the delay."

"This is not the way to advance the negotiations. The Palestinians know that all that is needed to conclude the talks is a decision by the Palestinians to conclude them," a source in the office said.

Despite Abed-Rabbo's comments, negotiations continued last night. Negotiators Dan Shomron and Yitzhak Molcho met with Saeb Erekat, and Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh and Netanyahu adviser Dore Gold were scheduled to meet with Abed-Rabbo.

High-level government sources have said several times in the past few weeks that a meeting between Netanyahu and Arafat is not feasible until the gaps over Hebron are closed to a greater extent.

Batsheva Tsur and Ilim contributed to this report.

Today's Israel - In Antique Style

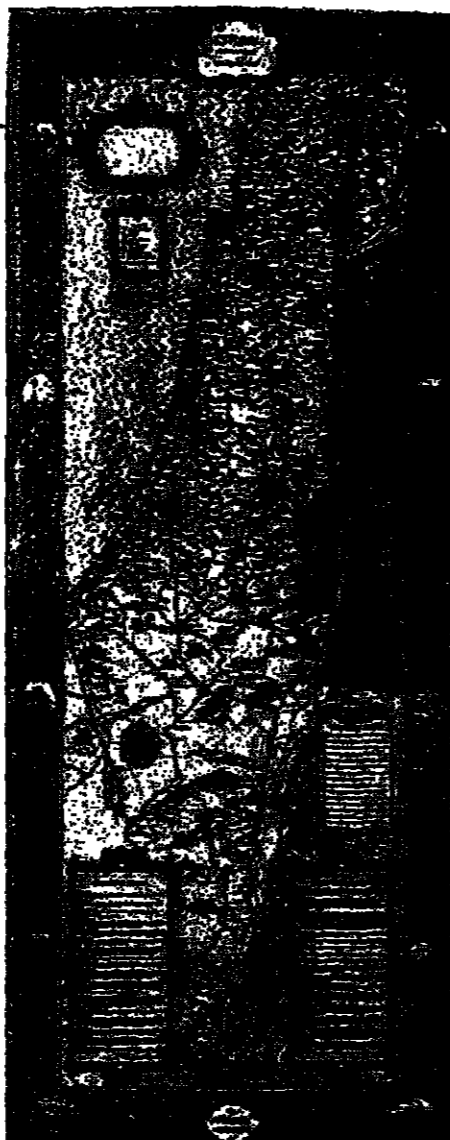
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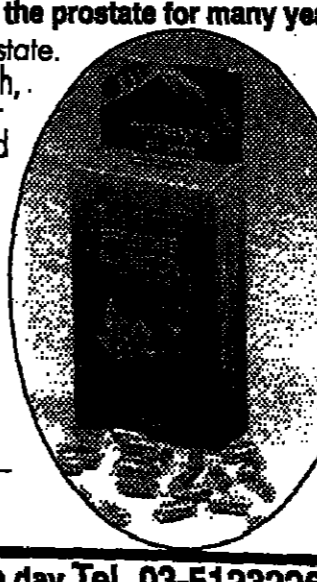
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Prosecution submits wiretaps of Deri

THE prosecution in the Aryeh Deri trial submitted as evidence yesterday a tape of a wiretapped conversation in which Deri and co-defendant Moshe Weinberg discuss a statement by the adoptive mother of Deri's wife on the subject of her financial support of the Deris.

Deri's mother-in-law, Esther Werderber, was taped by Weinberg's brother Shmuel to prove that large sums of money received by Aryeh Deri were from his in-laws.

The prosecution claims that Deri's wealth came from bribes from the other defendants in the trial in Jerusalem District Court.

In the conversation between Deri and Weinberg presented in court, Weinberg suggested Werderber's tape might actually harm their case. "It's good and it's not good," he said.

At the beginning of the conversation, Deri asked whether in the tape of Werderber she mentions a sum of \$250,000, which Deri claims his wife inherited from the Werderbers. Weinberg answered, "OK."

At the beginning of the cross-examination of Deri yesterday,

prosecutor Yehoshua Resnik said Deri had held the Werderber tape since 1991 but deliberately did not submit it to police for two years, to avoid exposing the pressure put on Esther Werderber not to give her version of events to a police. She was later killed in a car accident.

Deri denied that he withheld the tape.

The Weinberg-Deri conversation took place on March 28, 1993, a day before Deri submitted two tapes of Esther Werderber to police. In the conversation, the two discussed other Werderber tapes, including two which were not given to police.

Resnik asked Deri why he did not submit the tapes. Deri responded that his lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, instructed him not to give all the tapes to police.

In addition, he said, there were technical difficulties in transcribing the tapes. Deri said he would submit the two tapes to the court next week.

"The two tapes we will submit next week are the same tapes we always had - absolutely and clearly," Deri said.



A worker cleans the plaque at the Yitzhak Rabin memorial in Tel Aviv yesterday, after vandals sprayed donor Yosef Buchmann's name with paint. (Ariel Jerusalem)

Cabinet to discuss aid to Rwanda today

BATSHEVA TSUR

A GRASSROOTS movement has sprung up here to collect food for the Hutu refugees returning to Rwanda, while today the government is expected to discuss official aid to the African nation.

Yesterday, Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur met with Rwandan Ambassador Michel Rugema to hear the needs of his country. These were relayed

to a special task force set up in the ministry, which recommended that Israeli aid take the form of food, medicines and medical equipment. The proposals are due to be presented to the government by Foreign Minister David Levy at today's cabinet meeting.

Meanwhile, 300 tons of rice have been collected in the past four days by some 300,000 schoolchildren throughout the country through the Association of Israeli Children for the Children of Rwanda.

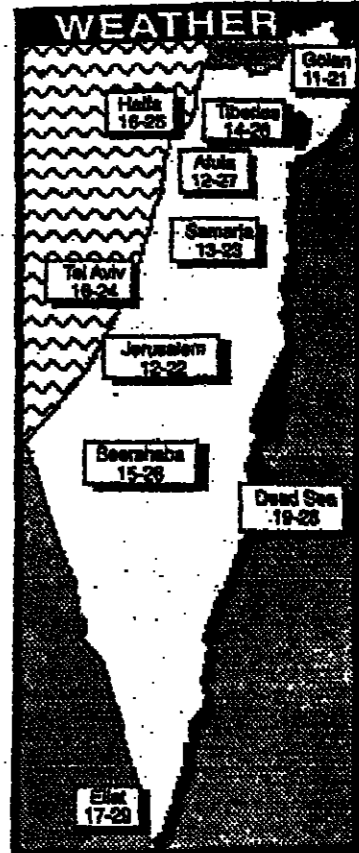
The initiative for the collection comes from a Petah Tikva restaurateur, Jean-Claude Kroif. He has set

up hot lines for children who wish to help (Tel: (052) 774-603 or (052) 774-622) and for adults (03) 931-5359) as well as a bank account for contributions (Bank Hapoalim No. 443777, in the Hovevei Zion St. branch in Petah Tikva).

"That is a welcome move. They are doing a good job and we appreciate the sympathy of the Israeli people," Rugema told *The Jerusalem Post*.

He said that other private citizens interested in helping the Rwandan refugees should join in the existing efforts.

The Rwandan government is looking for both emergency and long-term assistance, Rugema said.



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear with a slight rise in temperatures. Shebat: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
	C	F	
Amsterdam	04	39	cloudy
Barcelona	18	64	clear
Beijing	02	36	rain
Bombay	20	68	cloudy
Buenos Aires	10	50	rain
Calcutta	24	75	rain
Cairo	19	66	partly cloudy
Chicago	20	68	rain
Colombo	20	68	rain
Copenhagen	04	39	rain
Dublin	08	47	rain
Frankfurt	08	47	rain
Geneva	01	34	rain
Hong Kong	18	64	cloudy
Honolulu	22	72	cloudy
Jerusalem	12	54	clear
London	01	34	rain
Los Angeles	16	61	clear
Moscow	15	59	cloudy
Mumbai	18	64	rain
Manila	02	36	rain
Medan	01	34	rain
Memphis	01	34	rain
Miami	01	34	rain
New York	01	34	rain
Oakland	02	36	rain
Paris	02	36	rain
Rio de Janeiro	22	72	rain
Rome	04	39	rain
Singapore	22	72	rain
Socorro	01	34	rain
Sydney	02	36	rain
Taipei	08	47	rain
Tel Aviv	12	54	clear
Tokyo	08	47	rain
Winnipeg	01	34	rain
Washington	01	34	rain
Zurich	02	36	rain

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